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## **Libertarians ask: If the IRS is so terrible, why did Congress just increase its budget?**

*Senate hearings reveal a rogue agency . . . that's \$600 million richer*

WASHINGTON, DC — The IRS is a “troubled agency” that is “terrorizing innocent Americans and wrecking our lives,” Congress says — so why did it just vote to *increase* the agency’s budget by \$600 million?

That’s the question Libertarians are asking today as politicians listen to three days of Congressional hearings about IRS abuses.

**“You don’t increase a bully’s allowance just before you spank him,”** said Libertarian Party national chairman Steve Dasbach. “But that’s what Congress has done.

“Politicians just voted to give the Internal Revenue Service \$600 million more — so IRS agents can file *more* erroneous tax assessments, target *more* defenseless mom-and-pop businesses for harassment, use *more* fake names to cover their crimes, and drive *more* taxpayers to suicide,” he said.

Those are the kinds of tragic and outrageous stories that the Senate Finance Committee is hearing from abused taxpayers — stories that are being corroborated by IRS agents wearing hoods to protect their identities, he noted.

“This week, America is hearing in graphic detail the crimes committed by the IRS,” said Dasbach. “They are also seeing Republican and Democratic politicians pretend to be outraged about how the IRS breaks the law, tramples our rights, and rifles through our pockets.

“But just one week before this public hearing, these politicians voted to *increase* the budget of the agency they are now criticizing. Libertarians ask: If Congress wants to rein in this rogue agency, why did it give the IRS *more* money to terrorize *more* Americans and wreck *more* lives?”

Yet, despite all the shocking testimony against the agency, Dasbach predicted that the Senate hearings will end without any significant reforms to the IRS.

**“Once the cameras are turned off, not one dollar will be cut from the IRS budget, not one IRS supervisor will be fired, and not one IRS lawbreaker will be sent to jail,”** he said. “Politicians say they want to protect us from the IRS. But don’t believe them.

“When these IRS bullies are finished testifying about their criminal acts, they will take off their hoods and go back to work, terrorizing American taxpayers. It will take more than one grandstanding Congressional hearing to make politicians realize that the *only* way to protect us from the IRS is to abolish it,” he said.

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